United Nations A/68/124 (Part I)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 July 2013
English
Original: Arabic/English/Russian/
Spanish

**Sixty-eighth session**
Items 95 and 102 of the preliminary list*

**Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East**

**The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East**

# Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

## Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| I. | Introduction | 2 |
| II. | Observations | 2 |
| III. | Replies received from Governments | 4 |
| | Cuba | 4 |
| | Iraq | 5 |
| | Jordan | 6 |
| | Libya (on behalf of the Arab Group) | 10 |
| | Syrian Arab Republic | 18 |
| | Ukraine | 19 |
| IV. | Reply received from the European Union | 20 |

* A/68/50.

13-38604 (E) 290713

Please recycle

# I. Introduction

1. By paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/28, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to the report of the Secretary-General of 10 October 1990[1] or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. By paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. On 25 February 2013, a note verbale was sent to all Member States drawing their attention to paragraphs 10 and 11 of General Assembly resolution 67/28 and seeking their views on the matter. The replies received from the Governments of Cuba, Iraq, Jordan, Libya (on behalf of the Arab Group), the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine are reproduced in section III below. A reply from the European Union was received and is reproduced in section IV, in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 65/276. Additional replies received from Governments will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Observations

3. The Secretary-General reaffirms that achieving a negotiated two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is long overdue and more urgent than ever in a regional context marked by deep transformations and growing spillover of the Syrian conflict, in humanitarian, security, social and political terms. He reiterates that it is in the best interests of both Israelis and Palestinians to achieve an end to the conflict, an end to the occupation that began in 1967, a resolution of all final status issues — including Jerusalem, borders, refugees and security — and the establishment of a sovereign, independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace with a secure State of Israel. He calls for the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009).

4. The Secretary-General welcomes ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at resuming meaningful peace negotiations and reaching a final status agreement. He will do his utmost to support any credible peace initiative and is convinced of the importance of international concerted action and broader engagement of key regional and international partners, including the Quartet.

5. The Secretary-General reiterates that any peace settlement must be comprehensive and emphasizes the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in this regard. Reaching a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East remains our shared goal. In addition to achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace, ending the current conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic is imperative and a top priority of the United

[1] A/45/435.

Nations. The Secretary-General is fully committed to doing everything possible to stop the violence and facilitate a political solution in the Syrian Arab Republic. He calls on all concerned in the region and the international community to provide the necessary support and to abide by international law and all relevant Security Council resolutions to prevent a further escalation of tensions.

6. He calls upon all concerned parties inside and outside the region to seek to create stable security conditions and an eventual Middle East peace settlement that would contribute to the process of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. The Secretary-General reiterates the continued readiness of the United Nations to provide any assistance in this regard.

7. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General,[2] the facilitator of the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, the Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, continued his intensive consultations with the States of the region and in that connection continued to undertake preparations for the convening of the Conference in Helsinki. In carrying out his mandate, the Under-Secretary of State continued to have the full support and cooperation of the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

8. Regrettably, the Conference was unable to be convened by the end of 2012, as not all States of the region were prepared to attend. On 24 November 2012, the Secretary-General issued a statement in which he took note of the statements issued by the co-sponsoring States and reaffirmed the collective responsibility of the convenors to make every effort to convene the Conference. He fully supported the continued efforts of the facilitator, including his proposal to conduct multilateral consultations in the shortest possible time so as to allow the Conference to be convened at the earliest opportunity in 2013.

9. On 29 April 2013, the facilitator reported to the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on the status of the preparations for the Conference. States parties to the Treaty took note of that report and expressed appreciation for the tireless efforts of the facilitator. States parties, while expressing their deep disappointment and regret at the postponement of the 2012 Conference, reaffirmed their support for the convening of the Conference in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. States parties recognized that while the deadline for convening the Conference had not been met, the opportunity had not been lost.

10. The Secretary-General is concerned that any further delay in convening the Conference may undermine the Treaty and its review process, including the prospects for a successful 2015 Review Conference. He notes that a number of States parties to the Treaty considered the postponement of the Conference a violation of the commitments agreed to at the 2010 Review Conference.

[2] A/67/139 (Part I).

11. The Secretary-General looks forward to greater cooperation and encourages all States of the region to seize the opportunity to initiate a process that entails direct engagement on security issues and follow-on steps leading to achieving the complete elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region — nuclear, chemical and biological — and their delivery systems. The Secretary-General reaffirms his strong support for the facilitator and for Finland as the host Government for the Conference, and expresses his deep appreciation for their continuing efforts. The Secretary-General remains ready to provide any assistance deemed helpful in this regard.

# III. Replies received from Governments

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2012]

1. Cuba supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different countries or regions of the world, as part of the efforts to achieve the objective of nuclear disarmament.

2. Our country attaches particular importance to the establishment in the region of the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in line with the stated wishes of the overwhelming majority of the countries in the area and in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 487 (1981), paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991), and numerous General Assembly resolutions.

3. We reaffirm the importance of implementing the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which strongly emphasizes the need for Israel to accede without delay to the Treaty and submit its nuclear facilities to comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, and the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

4. The failure to implement the agreement reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the holding in 2012 of an international conference for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is regrettable, unjustifiable and dangerous. Such a conference must be held at the earliest possible opportunity in 2013. New proposals and delays in the conference being held would have very negative consequences for the credibility of the Treaty and the nuclear non-proliferation system as a whole.

5. The establishment of this zone would not only make an important contribution to achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament, it would also represent a vital step forward in the Middle East peace process.

6. Israel, the only State in the Middle East that has neither acceded to nor announced its intention to accede to the Treaty, should renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and place all its nuclear facilities under the IAEA safeguards system, as an immediate and unconditional response to the justified calls of the international community.

## Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[23 March 2013]

1. The Government of the Republic of Iraq affirms its support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as a key step towards the elimination of such weapons. Iraq has therefore supported and contributed to the efforts that have been exerted with a view to establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in various geographical regions and, in particular, the Middle East. The establishment of this zone will serve several purposes, in view of the important role that such a zone will play in strengthening the non-proliferation regime and the security of the countries of the region. This initiative is, moreover, a key confidence-building measure at the regional level. The utmost efforts must therefore be exerted to ensure that a conference is convened on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East: the outcomes of that conference and the various objectives that it will achieve will enhance the region's safety and stability.

2. The Government of Iraq regrets the statements issued by the parties organizing the conference on the establishment a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which was to be held in Helsinki at the end of 2012 and has been indefinitely postponed.

3. The Government of Iraq calls upon the States organizing the conference to shoulder their responsibilities in accordance with the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, including Volume I, Part I/IV thereof, concerning the Middle East, which called upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the depositary States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, namely, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the region, on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, particularly in view of the fact that the preparatory steps for the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty are underway, and it is therefore imperative that progress should be made in the implementation of the commitments set forth in the action plans that were adopted by the 2010 Review Conference.

4. The Government of Iraq affirms that the facilitator must undertake the principal duties with which he was entrusted under the action plan for the Middle East that was contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, the focus of which is to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East by conducting consultations in that regard with the States of the region and preparing an agenda for the conference, using the terms of reference that were specified in the 2010 Document. The facilitator is also to assist in implementing future follow-up steps, and submit his reports to the 2015 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee meetings.

5. The Government of Iraq affirms that the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, must more actively urge the organizing States and States Parties in the region to convene the conference as soon as possible.

6. The Government of Iraq stresses that work must continue towards convening a negotiating conference that will initiate a genuine process aimed at achieving a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. Every effort must be exerted to ensure the success of that conference, because the outcomes of that conference and the various objectives that it will achieve will enhance the region's security and stability and bring us nearer to the overarching goal of achieving and safeguarding international peace and security.

7. The Government of Iraq does not believe that the establishment of the zone is an impossible task, provided that negotiations are conducted in good faith and there is sufficient political will to achieve that objective.

8. Efforts to establish this zone must be accompanied by such key steps as the placement of all nuclear facilities under the Comprehensive Safeguards System of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In that connection, we affirm the importance of Israeli nuclear disarmament, Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the placement of all its nuclear installations under the IAEA safeguards regime. In that regard, we recall Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which calls upon Israel to place its nuclear facilities under the safeguards of IAEA.

9. The Government of Iraq affirms that it is important that all the relevant regional States, without exception, participate in the conference, because the absence of any significant regional State will undermine that conference and result in its failure.

10. The Government of Iraq acknowledges the need to learn from States with experience of establishing zones free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, and to recognize the obstacles that prevent the establishment of such zones, in view of the fact that certain zones have not entered into force, albeit their instruments have been open for signature for a considerable time.

11. Failure to implement this initiative will have serious consequences for the region and will impact negatively on its security and stability. The facilitator, together with those States that co-sponsored the 1995 resolution concerning the Middle East, thus hold key responsibility for supporting efforts to convene the conference and for drawing up a framework and clear agenda for future action.

## Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[8 April 2013]

### Introduction

1. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan supports United Nations endeavours aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and the consolidation of peace and security throughout the world. Jordan has always been indefatigable in its support for all General Assembly resolutions that aim to establish regional and international peace and security, from the earlier resolutions that were adopted in the 1970s, to resolution 67/28 of 2012. All those resolutions recommend that practical steps should be taken for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

2. Jordan further affirms the importance of settling disputes by peaceful means, strengthening confidence-building measures at all levels and supporting disarmament and arms control, in order to avoid the growth of a climate of no-confidence between the countries of the region that could lead to armed conflict in the future. Jordan promotes the resolution of armed conflict through negotiation, by official enquiry, reconciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, or by having recourse to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties. Jordan is well known for its moderate policies and love of peace and for its invariable concern that the peoples of the region should avoid the misfortunes of war and destruction, albeit geographical factors have dictated that it should be located in an area in which the majority of States aspire to possess weapons of mass destruction.

**Jordanian endeavours at the international level**

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan abides by all Security Council resolutions concerning weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of force against civilians, of which the most important is resolution 1540 (2004), which is considered fundamental at the international level to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The States of the region should cooperate and genuinely aspire to the non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and towards the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Jordan also urges States to comply with United Nations resolutions and the bilateral, regional and international agreements, including disarmament agreements, that they have signed.

4. Jordan's policy of commitment to the control of traditional weapons and weapons of mass destruction has a direct impact on security policy at the regional and supraregional levels. Jordan is a party to several international agreements and initiatives that aim to control the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and counter nuclear terrorism. This underlines the clarity of the Jordanian policy towards weapons of mass destruction and the sincerity of its endeavours to rid the Middle East of all such weapons and bring security and nuclear safety to the region.

5. Jordan believes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to security and stability in the region that has a negative impact on peace efforts aimed at resolving disputes between the States of the region, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, and can also lead to lack of trust between those States, as well as impacting negatively and severely on the development of the region and the security and economic, environmental and humanitarian well-being of its peoples. Accordingly, Jordan has signed most of the instruments concerning chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and makes an effective contribution to all activities relating to disarmament and regional security. The Jordanian armed forces comply with those instruments, which include the following:

(a) Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(b) Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism;

(c) Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

(d) Proliferation Security Initiative;

(e) Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East Initiative;

(f) International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;

(g) Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the amendments thereto;

(h) Convention on Nuclear Safety;

(i) Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency;

(j) Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident;

(k) Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology;

(l) Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(m) Security Council resolutions on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

6. Jordan believes it is essential that all the States in the region, without exception, should sign the instruments relating to these weapons, in order to achieve security and stability for all the peoples of the region. Jordan further supports all Arab stances in the field of security. The collective security of the States of the region may be realized through disarmament, not by means of possessing weapons of mass destruction, which can only lead to an armament race and a dearth of security. Jordan calls for equal consideration to be given to all weapons of mass destruction and believes that equal efforts should be exerted to achieve complete disarmament in respect of those weapons. It supports efforts aimed at creating a region in the Middle East that is completely free of such weapons, because that will strengthen peace and security at the regional and international levels.

7. Jordan has strong, cooperative ties with its neighbouring States in the region that are based on mutual assistance and common interests and aim to establish security and peace in the region of the Middle East. In 1994, Jordan concluded the Treaty of Peace with Israel and since then, the Government of Jordan has always been the first State in the region to become a party to international instruments that relate to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with the aim of establishing in the region of the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

**The Jordanian position**

8. The position of Jordan on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is clear and unwavering and has never changed. Jordan has no nuclear weapons or means of delivery for the same. It does not deal with them either directly or indirectly, and has no aspirations or desire to possess or develop any programme relating to such weapons. It has never provided any scientific, technical or material assistance to any party that is attempting to acquire or develop nuclear weapons and has not permitted any activity related to such weapons to take place on its territory.

9. With a view to ridding the world of nuclear weapons, Jordan supports all regional and international endeavours to prohibit the use of and eliminate those weapons. It therefore swiftly adopted a firm and unambiguous policy towards

weapons of mass destruction that includes a set of preventive measures and arrangements at the political and security levels.

(a) At the political level:

(i) Jordan has become a party to all international instruments and protocols that prohibit the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction.

(ii) In the Treaty of Peace with Israel, Jordan ensured the inclusion in article 4, paragraph 7, of subparagraph (b), that calls for the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional, in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace, characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, dialogue and reconciliation.

(iii) As a member of the League of Arab States, Jordan took part in formulating the draft convention on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East: Jordan was one of the members of the select committee that was responsible for drafting the articles of that convention.

(iv) Jordan has adopted a clear and unwavering policy towards weapons of mass destruction and has used every possible occasion and every international forum to communicate the danger that is represented to the region by the proliferation in it of such weapons, and to demand that the international community and the Security Council should bring pressure to bear on States to adhere to the relevant international instruments and place all their nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(b) At the security level:

(i) The armed forces are making efforts to improve all aspects of early warning systems, including intelligence, radar and command and control, with a view to minimizing response time and to taking the necessary measures in the event of the launch of ballistic missiles.

(ii) The capacities of the Chemical Support Group are being developed in the fields of detection, protection, decontamination and passive defence against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

(iii) The appropriate parties in the Royal Medical Services have identified the equipment, medication and vaccinations that are required in order to alleviate the impact of the use against the military and civilians of weapons of mass destruction.

(iv) At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, His Majesty the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces announced an initiative to form an anti-nuclear trafficking team, with a view to avoiding the risks posed by the circulation and smuggling of nuclear materials and in order to establish and strengthen the concept of nuclear security.

**The perspective of the Jordanian armed forces**

10. Jordan supports all regional and international endeavours to achieve nuclear security and prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and that will lead to the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It has acceded to an IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement and all the relevant

international instruments, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and subscribes to the goals of the Washington and Seoul Summits. Jordan has taken the initiative in signing such instruments that relate to nuclear installations as the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. Jordan also upholds the right of States to obtain, develop and use nuclear power for peaceful purposes and to produce peaceful energy.

11. Jordan considers that arrangements for building confidence, security and cooperation between the States of the region and halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will increase stability, peace and security in the region and at the national, regional and international levels. They will also help to establish and consolidate the principles of equality, freedom and democracy, with the aim of establishing in the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons.

## Libya (on behalf of the Arab Group)

[Original: Arabic]
[23 May 2013]

I. The States members of the League of Arab States support the call for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all areas of the world, including a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in keeping with their commitment to nuclear disarmament as the highest priority, as affirmed by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament, held in 1978.

Since 1980, the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East" has been a standing item on the agenda of the General Assembly. The inclusion of that item came as a response to the request that was made in 1974 by several States, one of which was the Arab Republic of Egypt. The General Assembly has annually adopted, by consensus, a resolution calling for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

II. The Arab States have supported the initiative to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons, and the international community has committed itself to achieving this goal. The 1995 resolution on the Middle East, which was sponsored and submitted by the three depositary States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, became part of a package that included the indefinite extension of the Treaty.

Experience has demonstrated the Arab States' commitment to fulfilling their obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the comprehensive safeguards agreements that they have concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as their keenness to build optimal relations with the Agency, with the aim of ensuring that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes.

The Group of Arab States affirms the need to achieve the universality of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place all nuclear facilities in the Middle East region under the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. The Group also stresses the need for Israel to accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and place all its nuclear facilities under the Agency's comprehensive safeguards system. Such an

action would foster peace and security in the region, stimulate economic and social development in the States of the region and prevent an arms race that would hinder development programmes and undermine confidence-building efforts.

The Arab Group affirms that the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East constitutes the first step towards implementing the agreement that was reached over 15 years ago to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons.

The Arab Group affirms that the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East, in accordance with the action plan contained in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, is not only an obligation for the international community and the organizers of the conference, but also a major factor in achieving regional peace, building confidence and eliminating tensions arising from nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Those goals can be attained by adopting a comprehensive and balanced regional approach that eschews selective and biased policies.

Ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons is a fundamental and indispensable condition for achieving security, stability and peace. It is also an important basis for building confidence. The establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East would ensure implementation of the many relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, as well as that of Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991), which stress the importance of establishing such a zone and placing Israeli nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards system of IAEA.

In that context, the States members of the League of Arab States submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Geneva from 22 April to 3 May 2013, a working paper on convening a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. That working paper includes the following points:

The resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons regarding the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction is the fundamental basis of the indefinite extension of the Treaty. It took the international community 15 years to adopt the implementation mechanism for that resolution in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference.

The action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference set forth practical steps for the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East that included commissioning the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the three co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as the first step in a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

The Arab States cooperated with all the parties responsible for organizing the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Nevertheless, the organizers, acting

against the wishes of every State of the region other than Israel, unilaterally declared that the conference would be postponed sine die.

By unilaterally postponing the conference, the organizers are shirking their responsibilities and commitments under the action plan set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. The postponement also undermines the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the review process and the relevant resolutions adopted by the international community. Failure to fulfil these commitments also casts serious doubts on the consensus and compromise process that has characterized the multilateral approach to disarmament.

The organizers and Israel, which did not declare that it would attend the conference, are responsible for the postponement and any consequent negative impacts that hinder progress towards ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, a goal for which the Arab States have been striving for four decades.

The Group of Arab States affirm the importance of implementing paragraph 7 (a) of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference, which calls on the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the sponsors of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene the conference. The Group also affirms the need to convene the postponed conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East at the earliest possible opportunity, which must be sometime in 2013. Responsibility for the convening of the conference lies with the whole international community, and if it is not held in due course, that must be considered as a violation of the review process and of agreed commitments. In that context, there is a direct link between the convening of the conference in 2013 and its realization of perceptible success through the initiation of a negotiation process within a specific time frame to achieve that zone free of weapons of mass destruction, and the success of the 2015 Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee.

III. The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit and ministerial levels has adopted a number of resolutions related to the 2012 conference (see annexed list of resolutions). At its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Doha, Qatar, on 26 and 27 March 2013, the Council of the League, meeting at the summit level, adopted the Doha Declaration, in which it:

Affirms the need to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction promptly, in order to put a definitive end to the nuclear arms race, because that is a crucial element of the non-proliferation regime, which is based on fulfilment of the commitments agreed in the Treaty review process;

Calls for convening the international conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction at the earliest possible opportunity and the designation of a date for the conference, and affirms the importance of holding consultations under the auspices of the United Nations and according to a defined agenda, with the participation of those States that officially declare their intent to attend the conference;

Affirms that any delay in convening the conference at the earliest possible opportunity in 2013, or the failure to do so, constitutes a violation of the non-proliferation regime as a whole and undermines the credibility of the Treaty;

Affirms that the States members of the League of Arab States reject attempts to hold the Arab States responsible for the failure of the organizers to convene the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East;

Reaffirms that the postponement of the conference was caused by Israel's refusal to comply with international will and its desire to maintain a monopoly on nuclear weapons in the region;

Reaffirms the Arab States' determination to ensure the security of the Arab nation by all legitimate means.

**Annex**

**Resolutions adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States in 2012 and 2013 regarding the 2012 conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East**

| *Resolution* | *Main provisions* |
|---|---|
| Resolution No. 7534, adopted on 5 September 2012 at the 138th ordinary session | Reiterates the support of the States members of the League of Arab States for efforts to convene the 2012 conference, as well as the need for the organizers of the conference to commit to the terms of reference defined by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to refrain from introducing any topics not set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference;<br><br>Affirms that, in the context of the League of Arab States, the committee of senior officials alone is authorized to articulate the Arab position regarding the 2012 conference, and calls on Arab States to reaffirm that when holding bilateral meetings with the organizers of the 2012 conference;<br><br>Commissions the committee of senior officials to hold a meeting with the conference organizers (the facilitator and his team, the United Nations and the representatives of the three depositary States of the Non-Proliferation Treaty) before or immediately after the IAEA General Conference, in order to discuss the preliminary Arab positions regarding proposals for the organization of the 2012 conference. |
| Resolution No. 7575, adopted on 12 November 2012 at the special session of the Council at the ministerial level | Affirms that the collective Arab position continues to be one of support for the efforts aimed at convening the 2012 conference, and further affirms, as a matter of principle, the importance of convening the conference on its |

| *Resolution* | *Main provisions* |
|---|---|
| | scheduled date, in accordance with the Final Document of the 2012 Review Conference and the terms of reference;<br><br>Assigns to the committee of senior officials of the Arab Ministries of Foreign Affairs the following tasks:<br><br>Hold meetings more frequently and step up its activities in the near future and create a rapid response mechanism, if required;<br><br>Stress to the conference organizers the importance of adhering to the terms of reference and the framework defined by the 2010 Review Conference;<br><br>Adopt a unified position aimed at ensuring that the 2012 conference produces clearly defined results and mechanisms for implementation and follow-up, according to a defined timetable that sets out the stages for ridding the region of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction;<br><br>Affirm the leading role of the United Nations in organizing the conference and issuing invitations;<br><br>Affirm that the committee of senior officials alone is authorized to engage in negotiations and hold discussions concerning the 2012 conference and make the necessary political, technical and administrative preparations in that regard, and to call on the Arab ambassadors in New York, Vienna, Geneva and Brussels to bear that in mind;<br><br>Request the President of the Council of the League and the Secretary-General of the League to convey to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the League's support for convening the 2012 conference and urge him to ensure that the United Nations fulfils its responsibilities in that regard, and to also request that they should contact the other parties responsible for organizing the conference in order to urge them to make every effort to convene the conference in accordance with the commitments set out in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. |

| *Resolution* | *Main provisions* |
|---|---|
| Resolution No. 7580, adopted on 13 January 2013 at the special session of the Council at the ministerial level, under the agenda item entitled "The Arab position on the postponement of the 2012 conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East" | Affirms that the postponement of the 2012 conference constitutes a breach of the commitments of the conference organizers to the international community regarding the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference;<br><br>Rejects the pretexts given by some of the conference organizers for the postponement, and holds them responsible before the international community for the postponement and its consequences;<br><br>Instructs the committee of senior officials to continue consultations with the organizers and the facilitator in order to set a date for the conference, at the earliest possible opportunity and prior to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty;<br><br>Instructs the committee of senior officials to continue working with regional and political groups in order to garner support for convening the conference and take any other measures the committee deems appropriate to support this work;<br><br>Instructs the committee of senior officials to notify the facilitator that consultations with the relevant parties should continue in their present bilateral form; the committee should consider the proposal to participate, together with the regional parties, in the expanded consultations, in accordance with the terms of reference agreed to in the action plan on the Middle East set out in the final document of the 2010 Review Conference, including the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. That resolution serves as the terms of reference for the 2012 conference and sets out requirements that protect Arab interests, including:<br><br>A specific date for the convening of the conference must be established;<br><br>Consultations must be held under United Nations auspices and according to a defined agenda; |

| *Resolution* | *Main provisions* |
|---|---|
| | Only those States that officially declare their intent to participate in the conference will be allowed attend.<br><br>In the event that a date is not set for the convening of the conference on establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East at the earliest possible opportunity, the Arab States will consider what steps they might take in all disarmament and disarmament-related forums, including the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the committee of senior officials will be asked to formulate a comprehensive action plan for the near future, including additional steps that will be submitted to the Council of the League at its forthcoming ordinary session;<br><br>Request the President of the Council of the League at the ministerial level and the Secretary-General of the League to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the Arab States' position and urge him to ensure that the Organization actively fulfils its responsibilities. |
| Resolution No. 7646/JK-J2 adopted on 24 March 2013 by the Ministerial Preparatory Council for the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Council at the summit level, held on 24 March 2013 in Doha | Takes note of the report and recommendations of the committee of senior officials adopted at its eighteenth meeting on 17 March 2013 and calls for consultations among the ministers with a view to taking a decision regarding participation in the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference;<br><br>Expresses appreciation for the recommendations of the committee of senior officials with regard to its activities at the international level and requests it to postpone its round of visits scheduled for April 2013, in order for this matter to be considered in the light of the outcome of the meeting of the Secretary-General of the League and the ministerial delegation with the relevant countries;<br><br>Instructs the Group of Arab States in Vienna to update the Arab draft resolution entitled "Israeli |

| *Resolution* | *Main provisions* |
|---|---|
| | Nuclear Capabilities", submit it to the upcoming IAEA General Conference and garner the support needed to ensure its adoption. |
| The Doha Declaration, adopted at the meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level held in Doha on 26 and 27 March 2013 | We affirm the need to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction promptly, in order to put a definitive end to the nuclear arms race that is under way in the region. We also affirm our commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, which is based on fulfilment of the commitments agreed in the Treaty review process. We call for the convening of the international conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction at the earliest possible opportunity and the designation of a date for the conference. We affirm the importance of holding consultations under the auspices of the United Nations and according to a defined agenda, with the participation of those States that officially declare their intent to attend the conference. We affirm that any delay in convening the conference at the earliest possible opportunity in 2013, or the failure to do so, constitutes a violation of the non-proliferation regime as a whole and undermines the credibility of the Treaty;<br><br>We reject attempts to hold the Arab States responsible for the failure of the organizers to convene the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and we reaffirm that the postponement of the conference was caused by Israel's refusal to comply with international will and its desire to maintain a monopoly on nuclear weapons in the region. We reaffirm our determination to ensure the security of the Arab nation by all legitimate means. |

## Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[29 May 2013]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomes United Nations efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East through the resolutions of the General Assembly, Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the review conferences of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic believes that the establishment of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones is one of the most significant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures that can be taken, and contributes to the reinforcement of regional and international peace and security and the credibility of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the sole obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East is Israel's intransigence and its disregard for all the relevant authoritative international resolutions, which clearly and unequivocally demand that it should accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in addition to its refusal to place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Syrian Arab Republic refuses to grant the stamp of international legitimacy to the nuclear capabilities of States that are not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and any attempts to include them in the non-proliferation regime as a nuclear-weapon State must be prevented, if the credibility of the Treaty is not to be lost, the whole international non-proliferation regime collapse and a regional and global nuclear arms race ensue.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the creation in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone should not be linked in any way to the peace process because the principal aim of creating such a link is to impede and delay the establishment of that zone. Moreover, any designation of the States of the Middle East does not constitute a definition of that region.

5. In the light of its commitment to that objective, in April 2003 the Syrian Arab Republic proposed to the Security Council in New York an initiative to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and, in particular, nuclear weapons. On that occasion Syria declared before the international community its willingness to collaborate effectively with its fellow Arab States and with all peace-loving States of the world in order to transform the Middle East into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. However, the position of certain influential States of the Council blocked the initiative. In December 2003, the Syrian Arab Republic resubmitted the same initiative to the Security Council as a draft resolution in blue, and continues to wait for the Council to take action for its adoption.

6. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the Security Council and, in particular, the depository States of the Treaty, which adopted the Resolution on the Middle East at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, should shoulder their responsibility by placing pressure on Israel in order to make the Middle East a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

7. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must honour the Resolution on the Middle

East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. That Resolution was an integral part of the set of resolutions adopted at that Conference, namely," Strengthening the Review Process for the Treaty", "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", "Extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" and "Resolution on the Middle East".

8. The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that it is essential to uphold the provisions of the Final Document of the 2000 Treaty Review Conference. That Review Conference declared that the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East will remain valid until its goals and objectives are achieved and that it is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Review Conference.

9. The failure to convene in 2012 a conference on the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, as called for by the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, was caused by Israel's rejection of all invitations to participate in that conference, and by the United States of America. That failure affects the credibility of the relevant authoritative international resolutions. Israel's refusal merely to participate in such a conference is in line with its policy of systematically rejecting authoritative international resolutions and affirms its lack of seriousness or sincere desire to establish the zone.

10. The failure to convene in 2012 a conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East underscores once again the responsibility of the Security Council to put pressure on Israel in respect of the establishment of such a zone in the region, particularly as the depository States of the Treaty are permanent members of the Council. Pressure must also be put on Israel to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, eliminate its nuclear stockpiles and its means of acquiring them and place all nuclear activities under a comprehensive safeguards agreement with IAEA in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981). Syria requests that the facilitator and the sponsors of the Resolution on the Middle East convene a conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East at the earliest possible time and before the end of 2013.

## Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[31 May 2013]

1. Ukraine supports the process of establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. The establishment of such zones will contribute to achieving the aims of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is a significant factor in strengthening international peace and security.

2. An important element in the functioning of such zones is compliance by nuclear-weapon States with the requirements of the treaties through which nuclear-weapon-free zones are established. The establishment of such a zone in the region of the Middle East is an important and necessary step in guaranteeing stability and preventing the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies in the region.

3. Ukraine expresses regret concerning the deferral of the deadline for implementing the decision of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) relating to the convening of a conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

4. The above position was spelled out by Ukraine during the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (22 April to 3 May, 2013, Geneva), and also during the latest round of political dialogue between Ukraine and the European Union on global disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation (Committee on Non-Proliferation (CONOP)-Global Disarmament and Arms Control Working Group (CODUN)) (15 May 2013, Kiev).

## IV. Reply received from the European Union

### European Union

[Original: English]
[29 May 2013]

1. Since 1995 the European Union has been a staunch supporter of a process aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear and all other weapons of mass destruction, and means of delivery, in the Middle East.

2. In 1995, the European Union and its member States, together with all the countries from the Middle East and Northern African region, committed in the Barcelona Declaration to the pursuit of "a mutually and effectively verifiable Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and their delivery systems".

3. On 19 and 20 June 2008, the European Union organized a seminar in Paris on the theme "Middle East Security, WMD Non-Proliferation and Disarmament". The 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference emphasized the importance of a process leading to full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. To that end, the Conference endorsed practical steps, inter alia, the consideration of all offers aimed at supporting the implementation of the 1995 Resolution, including the offer of the European Union to host a follow-up seminar related to the one organized in 2008. The seminar, organized by the European Union Non-Proliferation Consortium, was held in Brussels on 6 and 7 July 2011. After the appointment of the facilitator for the 2012 Conference, the Consortium, in close consultation with the facilitator's team and with the participation of the Under-Secretary of State of Finland, organized a second seminar in Brussels on 5 and 6 November 2012.

4. The full support, role and contribution of the European Union to the process have been widely recognized, including by the facilitator, with whom the European Union has maintained close contacts. Since the postponement of the Conference, which the European Union has regretted, the European Union has been ready to further assist the facilitator and the convenors of the Conference, should it be asked to.